

BOB MARLEY REMEMBERED

By Morais Wallen

Seven years ago on May 11, Jamaica, and indeed the world lost a prophet, philosopher, musician and brother in the person of Bob Marley. His career as a singer and writer spanned 20 years, from 1961 to 1981. During this time he distinguished himself as a spokesperson for the poor and oppressed in an way that is only matched by Marcus Garvey.

His message transcended the contradictions implied in the attitudes of Rasta men of his type. The images of burning logwood, of drawing bad cards, rock as his pillow, cornmeal porridge and the hopes for the future were expressed with such humility that his message became the message of the poor and oppressed to the powers that be. As early as 1974 when the idea of a "democratic socialist" society was introduced Bob Marley told the working class people "never trust a politician...he will always want to control you". Out of this situation he called for a revolution. When the innocent blood was being shed, he warned that someone will have to pay. In all of this, Marley was dissatisfied with the political state of the country to the point where he "wore a permanent screw".

The crisis of imperialism dictates a certain urgency to the music of Marley. Despite the clarity and power of reggae the thrust of cultural resistance has not affected the basic institutions of the Jamaican society. The music of Marley must be linked to an ideology of change. One which recognises the need for political and social liberation that will create the society where true humanity is at least shadowed.

The hostility to anything or person that is oppressive is a manifestation of the resistance to the cultural and ideological assault which are faced at the centre of the Babylonian system. The cultural resistance form the hills of Jamaica and the symbol of defiance become his form of resistance as he attempts through his lyrics to create a more meaningful living environment for his fellow Jamaicans.

The spirit of Marley lives on in the voices of oppressed crying for liberation. This cry can be heard all the way from the township of Southern Africa to the valleys of Trench Town Jamaica. The message of Marley remains an inspiration. The challenge of equal right and justice is as relevant today as it was when they rang out at the peace concert. Let us accept the challenge to "get up and stand up for our rights" as we remember the death of a true prophet.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Roy Williams

JCA in United Way.

On April 26, 1988, with appropriate ceremony, the Jamaican-Canadian Association was admitted into the United Way family as a member agency. After approximately four years of United Way Developmental funding we now have obtained member status. We share this new status with the Black Secretariat, the Rexdale Women's Centre and four other groups that were admitted this year. This is the first time that two entities from the Black/Caribbean Communities have been admitted and brings to a total of three such groups within the United Way Family (Tropicana Community Services was admitted some years ago). This membership further emphasizes the direction in which the JCA has been moving in providing social services to this very needy community. We will concentrate primarily on the young and on the elderly. We do not have the resources at the present time to deal with the middle of the spectrum. We will still continue to address the needs of immigrants during their adjustment period and we will continue to advocate on behalf of the disadvantaged. We will need many volunteers to help us to deliver on this mandate, as the United Way is a volunteer organization.

WALK-A-THON - A SUCCESS.

I unfortunately was out of town on the first of May and for the first time missed the Walk-a-thon. I understood though that you could not have had a nicer day (I arranged that before I left.) I understand also that there was a very enthusiastic group of walkers and that the effort should produce substantial returns for the Building Fund. I understand that Bromley Armstrong, Austin Davey and Wilfred Greenwood were first place winners. Bromley will therefore have to train harder to fend off these new challengers. I thank the Consul General Mrs. Kay Baxter for officiating and actually Walking (and finishing). In a year or two she will have attained the same level of athletic prowess as her predecessor Ossie Murray. Talking about first place finishing the grapevine tells me that as far as pledges go Jean Gammage has a long lead over all challengers. Please accept my deepest gratitude to all who walked, pledged, helped with the planning and the organizing and prez.s....continued on page 3

In-Focus is published by:
Jamaican Canadian Association
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Toronto, Ontario M6P 3S8

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Typesetting and Layout: Christine Moodie and Grace Baugh

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who worked both in front and behind the scenes. Thanks to Bromley, Hector and all other helpers. We most sincere thank you to Hugh Daley who donated the printing.

Our Executive Director Moves On.

One of the key builders of the Jamaican-Canadian Association is Karl Fuller. He has served this Association in many different capacities over the years. His most significant role, however, has been as Executive Director of the JCA - the first and only Executive Director we have had. He carved out the mandate and defined the limits of the job. He did more than was required. He was Co-ordinator, Building Manager, General Manager, Policy Adviser, Project Manager, Peace Maker and a host of other things. He, more than any other one individual, is responsible for bringing the JCA to its present high profile and good standing. I could rely on him completely. He made my job so much easier. I didn't have to worry about too many things because I knew Karl would handle them. We knew he would have to move on some day, but we hoped that day would be delayed. However, he moves on to another organization with which he has strong ties. We know he will do so much for that organization as he has done for the JCA. We wish him well as he moves on. We thank him for his contribution and our consolation is that we know he will always be a dedicated JCA person and will continue to serve in some other capacity.

CARAVAN

Caravan time is here again. June 17-25. We will be participating along with many other cultural groups in the Annual Metro International Caravan. This is usually a fun time. It will be a festival of good food, good music, good entertainment, Red Stripe Beer, Rum Punch, good friends and good fellowship. Passports are now available for \$8.00 until early June when they will cost \$10.00 each. Please pick yours up at the Centre - NOW. Get one for each of your friends as well. Call Daphne Bailey who is co-ordinating passport sales. A lot of work is involved in this effort. We need a lot of volunteers to make it succeed so please phone Sheila Raymond to indicate when, and in what role and how often you can be relied upon to assist in this very important task.

New Look for In-Focus

We have been gradually trying to bring the process of the JCA into the 20th century by learning and taking advantage of new technology. This has not been easy. We are trying to produce our newsletter ourselves by using our computer and finding appropriate Desktop Publishing Software to accomplish it. There are no resident experts on staff to assist us with this. We are fortunate however, to have some curious minds, willing learners and dedicated personnel who are committed to making it happen. These persons are Grace Bangh, Morris Walker and Christine Moodie. They each have put countless hours into this experiment. They are still learning. The first issue may not be perfect but they will continue working at it until it becomes perfect. I thank them sincerely for the effort. It means so much to the Association.

COMING EVENTS

High Commissioner to Speak at Quarterly Meeting.

The next Quarterly Meeting of the JCA will be on Sunday, May 29, 1988, starting at 1:00 p.m. Please be there promptly. We will have the business conducted between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. His Excellency H. Dale Anderson, Prez's continued on Page 7

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MEMBERS CORNER



Veronica Hislop -
Chairperson
General Purpose
Committee

Veronica joined JCA 1 year ago and has been an active member of the membership committee. She brings to the Board knowledge of social welfare issues and Community service, please give her your support. She needs, committed volunteers to join her committee. Please call J.C.A. 535-4476.

Our apologies to Veronica for omitting her photo from the list of Board Members in the last issue of IN-FOCUS.

CONCERN CORNER

GET WELL WISHES TO: Carmen Jeas, Alex Russel, Deaise Jones, Hycinth Wilson

BIRTHDAYS: MAY Natalie Wilson and Hycinth Wilson
JUNE Radcliffe Johnson
JULY Bernice Bailey and Carmen Jeas

! HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL !

Congratulations Joan and Everton Cummings
Who celebrate their first wedding anniversary in July

REMINDER !!

1988 membership fees are now due

\$20.00 Individual
\$30.00 Family (parents + dependant).
Please submit cheque or money order
payable to:

JCA 1621 Dupont St., Toronto, Ont.,
M6P 3S8